



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: May 8, 2011

Number: 9

Released: May 9, 2011

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 8, 2011

Much needed rain graced the state increasing soil moisture. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.8. In some areas corn planting is almost complete and some has begun to emerge. Soybean and peanut planting continues. Preparation for dark and burley tobacco transplanting has begun. Pastures and hayfields growth slowed due to cool temperatures. Growers were preparing their equipment for barley and wheat harvest. The barley crop has good yield potential and growers are optimistic for good yields. Vegetable growers are harvesting early crops. Harvesting of strawberries, asparagus, and greens are in full swing. Tobacco greenhouses look good with plants ready to go to the field.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 10, 2011	0	6	83	11
April 17, 2011	1	2	73	24
April 24, 2011	2	6	75	17
May 1, 2011	2	8	73	17
May 8, 2011	0	4	80	16

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 10, 2011	4	18	75	3
April 17, 2011	3	10	80	7
April 24, 2011	2	11	79	8
May 1, 2011	2	11	77	10
May 8, 2011	0	11	81	8

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University



Virginia Cooperative Extension
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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	4	18	65	12
Livestock	1	6	21	59	13
Hay, Other	1	6	28	52	13
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	17	61	21
Corn	0	0	10	81	9
Winter Wheat	0	1	14	71	14
Barley	0	4	16	68	12
Oats	0	0	12	87	1
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	19	61	20
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	17	83	0
Summer Potatoes	0	0	10	90	0
Apples, All	0	0	36	64	0
Peaches	0	2	30	66	2
Grapes	0	0	11	81	8

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	74	56	80	73
Corn Emerged	40	20	59	49
Flue Cured Tobacco Transplanted	20	19	54	35
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	8	1	12	4
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	18	1	15	6
Soybeans Planted	8	5	17	11
Winter Wheat Headed	64	42	65	41
Peanuts Planted	18	3	14	18
Oats for grain Seeded	57	50	69	14
Cotton Planted	46	17	41	43

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 8, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to May 7	Mar. 1 to May 7 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	71	45	81	37	58	-2	584	506	1.10	9.15	0.99	12.56	-2.21
Norfolk	75	52	87	48	64	2	663	534	0.30	4.49	-3.82	10.37	-5.10
Richmond	75	50	84	43	62	0	670	585	1.30	8.21	0.17	12.77	-1.90
Roanoke	71	47	82	40	59	-1	591	NA	0.99	10.56	2.18	13.58	-1.02
Wash/Dulles	70	47	82	40	59	1	491	NA	0.63	10.87	3.27	14.95	1.49

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Rainfall was abundant for this week.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

A good rain Wednesday very much needed

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Hay harvest will advance rapidly this week depending on weather forecast. Corn planting almost finished. Soybean planting will continue this week. Dark and Burley tobacco planting will start this week as well.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture is good. Pastures and hayfields are looking good, but growth has been slow due to cool temperatures. Much of the corn has emerged, but as with pastures and hay, growth has been slowed by cool temperatures. Grain farmers are finishing up corn planting and planting full season soybeans. Combines are being serviced and reconditioned in preparation for barley and wheat harvest. Vegetable farmers are harvesting an early and bountiful crop of strawberries, spinach, Swiss chard, and lettuce.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

A week of nice weather after the terrible weather and storms of the previous week. Corn planting is about done. Corn emergence is good and the crop looks uniform across the area. Soybean planting has begun. Small grain looks pretty good across the area. Reports on early hay are that yields are decent and quality is good. Constant intermittent and light showers widespread have made hay making the most challenging aspect of farming in the last couple of weeks.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Rye was being cut for hay and soybeans being planted.

EASTERN

KING GEORGE (John Howe)

First cutting of hay started.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers finished up applying fungicides and insecticides to wheat. A few full-season soybeans were planted and haymaking was active. Vegetable producers continued to harvest strawberries, asparagus, and greens and were also busy planting summer vegetables.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Showers near end of week were well needed. Wheat was beginning to suffer. Corn is a little slow due to the cool weather. Grubs, cutworms and purple corn are the troubleshooting calls this week. Most corn had no problems emerging and stands look good. Soybean planting is very slow due to weather, but should pick up next week. Vegetable planting begins with cantaloupes peppers and tomatoes. More showers are predicted for the weekend and early next week. Monthly rainfall amounts are below normal. Some haymaking this week and quality is good.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Wet weather continues to be a problem with little ground work able to be completed. Tobacco greenhouses look good with plants ready to go to field now. Cattle and sheep producers still enjoying high prices.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Debris in pastures affected by tornadoes being sacrificed for animal welfare. Advised to remove hay crop and destroy ASAP.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Clean up from wind damages were underway as trees and down fences were mended.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Grain haylage is being cut and put in silos or bags. Some folks have little to no spring hay cutting. Pastures are still not doing well, clover is small in most fields. Planting is going full force for all crops. Rain has been helpful unless storms have produced heavy rains with run off.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Corn planting is winding down; cotton is in full swing with some peanuts and soybeans also being planted. Recent rains have been timely. Looking for a warming trend to help cotton and peanuts.



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